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From: Diane Pleschner-Steele [<mailto:dplesch@earthlink.net>]

Sent: Thursday, January 06, 2005 7:49 PM

To: Ryan Broddrick

Cc: John Ugoretz; Melissa Miller-Henson; Mike Chrisman

Subject: MLPA Science Team Appointments

Dear Mr. Broddrick,

On behalf of the California Fisheries Coalition I've attached a letter addressing concerns voiced recently by several members of the fishing industry over the current apparent imbalance in the make-up of the newly appointed MLP AI science team. Our letter provides suggestions on actions that you can take to strengthen and enhance the team composition and allay some of the concerns industry members have expressed regarding the balance and fairness of the MLP AI process.

Thank you very much for considering these recommendations. We look forward to working closely with you and MLP AI staff throughout this process.

Best regards for a Happy New Year!
Diane Pleschner-Steele, CFC Trustee

CALIFORNIA FISHERIES COALITION

January 5, 2005

Mr. Ryan Broddrick, Director
Department of Fish and Game
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: MLPA Science Team Appointments

Dear Mr. Broddrick,

The California Fisheries Coalition concurs with the January 5 comments to MLPA Initiative staff submitted by Steve Scheiblauber and Bill James, regarding the current make-up of the MLPA science team.

To strengthen independent fishery stock assessment expertise on the team, and in light of the inability of preeminent stock assessment scientist Dr. Ray Hilborn to serve under the current significant pro bono time requirements, we encourage you to provide flexibility in the MLP AI process to enable Dr. Hilborn's participation on the team via email and teleconference at meetings he is unable to attend physically. Professor Hilborn's general areas of research are fisheries population dynamics, management and natural resource conservation. He served on the scientific advisory panel for the President's Commission for Ocean Policy. His presence on the panel would, in addition to adding one of the brightest minds in the country, provide assurance that the science team will have the balance and objectivity that we all seek.

Further, the CFC supports the addition of Dr. Richard Young to provide fishery economics expertise, and Susan McBride Schlosser, who has knowledge of nearshore marine resources. Including these individuals on the team would add perspective that is presently lacking in the current team membership.

Dr. Hilborn is respected internationally as a stock assessment scientist. Dr. Richard Young, a former economics professor who served for several years on the Pacific Fishery Management Council's Science and Statistical Committee, has in-depth knowledge of fishing communities as well as fishery economics. Susan McBride Schlosser has worked closely with near-shore fishermen in her field studies and is well-respected by all in industry who know her work.

We appreciate your consideration of the concerns voiced by many in the fishing industry regarding the apparent imbalance in the current make-up of the science team. Providing flexibility in the process to allow Dr. Hilborn to participate, as well as appointing Dr. Young and Susan McBride Schlosser to the science team at this time will provide a broad range of perspectives and enhance expertise in stock assessments, fishery economics and nearshore resources necessary to complete the team. Importantly, as noted above, these appointments would also help to allay fishing industry concerns about the balance and fairness of the MLP AI process.

Thank you very much for considering these recommendations.

Trustees for the California Fisheries Coalition

Bob Fletcher
Sportfishing Association of California

Peter Halmay
Sea Urchin Harvesters - California

Jim Martin
Recreational Fishing Alliance

Diane Pleschner-Steele
CA Wetfish Producers Association

Steve Scheiblauber
Alliance of Communities for Sustainable Fisheries

cc: Mr. Mike Chrisman, Secretary for Resources

Alliance of Communities for
Sustainable Fisheries

California Lobster & Trap Association

California Fisheries & Seafood
Institute

California Wetfish Producers
Association

Central Coast Fisheries Conservation
Coalition

Commercial Fishermen of Santa
Barbara Inc.

Federation of Independent Seafood
Harvesters

Fishermen's Alliance of California

Golden Gate Fishermen's Association

I.S.P. Alginates Kelp Harvesters

Morro Bay Commercial Fisherman's
Organization

Moss Landing Commercial
Fishermen's Association

Port San Luis Commercial Fishermen's
Association

Recreational Fishing Alliance

Sea Urchin Harvesters Association - CA

Sea Urchin Processors Association -
CA

South Central Nearshore Trap
Organization

Southern CA Trawlers Association

Sportfishing Association of California

Ventura County Commercial
Fishermen's Association

For further information contact
Vern Goehring, CFC Manager